Mint of the United States

Dear Sir [redacted]

Philad.a July 23. 1833

Agreeably to the intimation in my letter of the 15th. I herewith remit for your use $250 in a draft of the Bank of the United States on Rothschild & Co. which they are instructed to hold subject to your order advising you thereof. I enclose also the duplicate of a despatch from the Secretary of State addressed to the Minister of the United States at St Petersburgh requesting his influence in favour of your enquiries should it be found expedient to visit that place.

Of the propriety of a visit to Russia you will as I have formerly suggested be better able to judge after having ascertained what facilities may be available in London. Should any insurmountable conditions preclude you from the proper sources of information in Paris. Whether this can be ascertained and how without promising to London you will be competent to decide. Should however the latter course appear under all circumstances to you preferable

I have very recently been favoured with [redacted] a few lines from Mr. Dickson also obliging letters in furtherance of your proceedings I lately enclosed to you. He had received a letter from his father communicating some new intimations as to the progress of the business of parting gold and silver especially that Mr. Johnston had entered into extensive engagements of this kind. This it is presumed is Mr. Percival Johnston an artist of great eminence to whom at the suggestion of Mr. Dickson I addressed some enquiries two years since in regard to Platina bottles for this process. These are prepared in a superior manner by him and his skilful [redacted] enquiries was highly satisfactory. Mr. Dickson has I understand written

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

RG104 E-1 Box 203

again and specially to his father and probably to Mr. Johnston in a manner calculated any mark to promote your free admission to the best conducted refineries in London.

Your remarks are drawn out without having any certain knowledge of the real impediments by which your operations may be restricted – possibly now of the obstacles which I have apprehended to exist – and which did exist some time since may now remain. It will be very pleasing to learn that a liberal feeling on both points suited to the temper of the present times may remove all these hindrances. A reasonable fee for instruction is liable to no objection. After this I shall abstain from any further intimations on these topics until I learn from you only the actual facts – this must now very soon occur according to the usual periods of our packet ships.

I would again remark that an impression of your being already in advance of the foreign Mints in many particulars should not prevent your noting the various processes and manipulations prevailing abroad so that if we ever had a Mint established we might be able on your return to devise a system comprising all that is best in those you had visited – the best method of assaying by the humid way and the dry and both for gold and silver – the best processes in the refinery as well for parting gold and silver as for refining either from other extraneous metals – the best processes & contrivances in the Melting room for care and expedition and for always producing ductile ingots with the least incidental waste – the best machinery and combinations in the various operations preparatory to coinage beginning with the annea

RG104 E-1 Box 203

of the individual persons - the best [redacted] advice for the improvement of your dies - and finally the best method of communicating this information to the planchets - This general outline I am aware embraces a large field - You are acquainted with the operations and arts will suggest under it familiar to your every mind.

Please procure and forward to me if any good opportunity occurs a copy of the Memoir by Gay Lussac on the humid dryness of Silex, to which I referred in my letter of the 29th from Washington. Also a copy of the former reports of the commission appointed by the French Govt on the same subject - that which you have in my hands is without the plate.

Enclosed you have the form of a receipt for the sum herewith remitted of which please sign duplicates returning one to me. When you have that the funds have been placed by Messrs Hottinguer to your credit, and forward them by the first opportunities - Your own receipt is a desirable voucher to be found in the Treasury Department - though not essential it is the most direct and acceptable.

Very respectfully
and truly Yours

Wm Short

Franklin Bache Esqr.
Care of Hottinguer & Co
Paris

P.S. You will please attach by a wafer the flying seal of the duplicate despatch addressed to Mr Barbour before you deliver it.

RG104 E-1 Box 203

104

To

Franklin Pierce

July 23. 1837

2211

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8 1967

RG104 E-1 Box 203

Copy

Dr. Mint of the United States

To the Bank of the United States

1833

July 23. To draft on Washington & Co Pres. 1325

Balt. 250

Rec'd from Samuel Moore Director of the Mint Two hundred and fifty dollars the Amt. of the above bill

($250)

Signed J. Cox Smithwick

2d Cash.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

RG104 E-1 Box 203

Copy

Dr. Mint of the United States

To Samuel Moore Director

1833

July 23d For this amount paid the Bank by the United States for a draft on Baltimore &c. for 1350 Francs equal to two hundred and fifty dollars to be remitted to Franklin Peale to defray the expenses of his visit to Europe on behalf of the Mint, as approved by the Department — . . . . . $250—

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES